GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:126
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2009
MID DAY MEAL SCHEME
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Government has been successful in achieving the targets set under the Mid Day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether the teaching staff neglect their teaching duties because of Mid Day Meal Scheme resulting in poor quality of education;

(c) if so,the reaction of the Government thereto and remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether this is the cause for drop out cases in Government run primary Schools in the country including Uttar Pradesh;and

(e) if so,the corrective measures initiated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a): It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide Mid Day Meal on all school days to all children attending classes I to VIII in the Government,Government-aided and local body schools and Educational Guarantee Scheme (EGS)/Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) centres of the country.All the 35 States/UTs are implementing the Mid Day Meal Scheme.The scheme is monitored at various levels to ensure effective implementation and achievement of targets.

(b) & (c): The MDM Guidelines stipulate that the teachers should not be assigned responsibilities that would impede or interfere with teaching learning.Teachers should,however,be involved in ensuring that
(i) good quality,wholesome food is served to children, and
(ii)the actual serving and eating is undertaken in the spirit of togetherness,under hygienic conditions and in an orderly manner.In order to ensure that teaching-learning processes in the classrooms are not affected, States have been advised to assign the responsibility of the day-to-day management of the programme at school level to the Village Education Committees (VECs),School Management & Development Committee (SMDC) or Parent Teacher Associations(PTAs). Similarly,responsibility for cooking/supply of cooked Mid Day Meal be assigned to one of the following:−

Local women's/mother' Self Help Group

Local Youth Club affiliated to the Nehru Yuvak Kendras

A voluntary organization fulfilling requirements laid down in the MDM Guidelines; and

By personnel engaged directly by the VEC/SMDC/PTA/Gram Panchayat/Municipality.

(d) & (e): The drop-out rate at the primary level has shown a consistent decline over the years.In the year 2004-05,the drop-out rate in primary schools (I-V) at national level was 29.00 which has come down to 25.67 in the year 2005-06.So far as State of Uttar Pradesh is concerned; the drop-out rate has come down from 12.06 in 2004-05 to 9.76 in 2005-06.